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OLC 71-0413
PPB 71-0737

7 May 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with J. R. Blandford and Frank Slatinsheck, House Committee on Armed Services

1. On 6 May 1971, Larry Houston, John Maury, [] met with Blandford and Slatinsheck at their request. Slatinsheck indicated that they had a hearing with DOD coming up concerning the language of Section 5 of H. R. 3818 authorizing certain Department of Defense appropriations for Fiscal Year 1972. They were concerned over being able to defend the present language of this Section and knowing what changes in language might do to Administration programs in Laos.

2. At the beginning of the discussion, in answer to questions, [] briefly described both CIA and DOD funded paramilitary projects in Laos, citing current year (FY 1971) program levels. Larry Houston then described the legal basis for operating these projects in the context of the Fulbright Amendment language adopted as part of Section 5.

3. Slatinsheck made the point several times that while the explanation of our legal basis has merit, much of our interpretation rests on legislative history, some of which is not openly known, and someone just reading Section 5 might still find it hard to believe that current activities are authorized. He kept asking how we and the Defense Department would defend ourselves if put to the test. Both he and Blandford expressed concern that if Congress is not satisfied that adequate Congressional control exists to prevent further U.S. involvement in Laos, steps will be taken to change the present language in order to establish such control.

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4. Although they did not so state, I got the impression that they would like to be able to assure their Committee that the present language of Section 5 is adequate Congressional protection, but in view of the foul-up over this language last year, and their own lack of knowledge as to what the Administration is doing and plans to do in Laos, they are unable to take this stance with confidence. I would not be surprised if they again asked the Administration to draft new language for this Section.

5. At the conclusion of the meeting both men said they felt better informed because of our discussion and expressed their thanks.

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Assistant Director for Budget,
O/PPB

Attachment:

Copy of Section 5, H. R. 3818

ELSherman:is

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WHICH MAY BE USED.

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7 May 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Frank Slatinshek

In response to his telephone call, met with Mr. Frank Slatinshek, Assistant Chief Counsel, House Armed Services Committee, who gave me three classified documents and asked, if possible, that Agency technicians ascertain whether these documents have themselves been duplicated by xerox or a similar process. I told Mr. Slatinshek that I had touched base with our technical people and was not sure how much we can do. [REDACTED] TSD, has been advised.

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[REDACTED]
Assistant Legislative Counsel

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